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fresh meat and poultry 13 millions, cereals about 20 millions and eggs 7.8 millions). 439

The total value of exports of raw materials and half-finished goods was 73.4 million litai. Exports of hemp and tow accounted for 25 million litai, cellulose for 12.7 millions and timber for 21 millions.

Among imports, manufactured products head the list (133 million litai, comprising machinery and tools, automobiles, chemical products, textiles and yarns, etc.), followed by raw materials and half-finished goods totalling 78.7 million litai (gilt metals, cement, chemical fertilisers, coal, naphtha and petroleum, cotton, etc.).

As long as the territory of Klaipėda (Memel) belonged to Lithuania, the foreign trade of the country passed almost exclusively through the Port of Klaipėda (Memel). Under the treaty concluded in March 1939 with Germany, Lithuania retains a free port at Klaipėda. [504]

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There has been a fairly big increase in population; rural families tend to be large. The women, though very fully occupied with their children and domestic duties, find time to look after the animals and work in the fields. This type of work is, however, more often left to women who have no children or domestic duties to attend to — that is, to girls or women whose children are older. Lithuanian women are, as a rule, fit and healthy; nevertheless, they are sometimes forced to neglect their homes, owing to the claims of agriculture and the rearing of children. They are naturally clean and orderly, and like to have a little garden of their own; in winter, they devote themselves to home industries — spinning, knitting, embroidery and sometimes weaving. The artistic value of a great deal of the handwork done in the country is of exhibition standard and has been shown both in Lithuania and abroad — for example, in 1937, at the Paris International Exhibition and, in 1938, at the Berlin International Exhibition of Arts and Crafts. 462

The Lithuanian peasant is somewhat deliberate in character; he is long-suffering and is prepared when necessary to go through difficult times without complaint. This was proved during the war, when, notwithstanding intense suffering, the popular songs and jokes dear to the peasant heart were never forgotten. 156

The rural population used formerly to wear homespun woollen and linen clothing — the production of flax is relatively greater in Lithuania than in any other European country. Of recent years, this type of clothing has disappeared, its place being taken by ready-made factory goods. 291